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Informants in Enterprises.

1. Since the abolition of the employees' councils, all enterprises in the Soviet Zone of Germany, both private and state (people's owned enterprises), have been organized with the following categories of active personnel:
  - a. Betriebsleitung (BL) - Management.
  - b. Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung (BGL) - Labor union committee representing the entire labor force.
  - c. Betriebsgruppen (BG) - Enterprise groups of parties, including the SED enterprise group, as the organization of all party members employed.
  - d. Betriebsvertrauensmaenner bzw. Frauen (BV) - Enterprise informants of both sexes.
2. The BV were activated at the time that the **Two-Year Plan** was announced; for example, in January 1949, agents of the FDGB Landesvorstand began making investigations in 500 main enterprises in East Berlin in the course of which they made efforts to have BV appointed. It was required that these BV be members of the BGL and that they have the confidence of the SED enterprise group. As SED members, nearly all of them were simultaneously members of the SED enterprise group.
3. The importance of the BV was first manifested when the wages committees were established in the Volkseigene Betriebe (people's owned enterprises) (VEB); while the members of the wages committees were elected by the BGL, it was required that they be confirmed by the BV.
4. In the course of further development the BV slowly became the actual organization-  
al center in the enterprise. A resolution of the FDGB headquarters declared that the BV are to be the ears and eyes of the BGL in all questions pertaining to mass activity. Numerous official party statements made in connection with the labor union elections indicated that the BGL were to make the labor force aware of the importance of intensified working productivity by raising working norms,

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rather than merely concerning themselves with the collection of FDGB dues. A resolution of the FDGB Landesverband Brandenburg on 3 and 4 August 1950 indicated that the BV are to maintain contact with labor force personnel by means of individual informal debates at the working place as well as during off duty hours. Training of the BV started in August 1949. In contrast to the FDGB functionaries, they are to receive training at SED party schools, which tends to indicate that the BV are really considered SED functionaries.

5. An effective impetus for the development of the BV system was given by the resolutions formed at the FDGB committee meetings in Hettstedt (P 52/D 64) and Bitterfeld (M 52/E 14) where it was resolved that, wherever possible, each BV is to maintain active contact with ten laborers. This has not as yet been achieved because there have not been enough functionaries in the various enterprises who have the full confidence of their respective SED enterprise groups. This is borne out by the fact that in enterprises in which there were weak SED enterprise groups, or none at all, the BV system did not develop. This is also true in the case of many VEBs such as the Eisenach (L 51/H 76) railroad repair shop in which only 22 BV are active in a labor force of 500.
6. The development toward increased activity was accelerated by the labor union elections at which time all enterprises were advised to elect BV in addition to new BGL and delegates. Not only were new BV to be elected but their numbers were to be increased. In the Leuna Plant, for example, the number of BV rose from 500 to 2,000 while in the Buna plant their number mounted from 500 to 1,500. In early February 1950 there was a total of 42,495 BV in VEB and private enterprises, including 21.1 percent women and 17.3 percent juveniles. This means that on the average, out of 18 FDGB members, only one was a BV though the resolutions called for one BV out of ten FDGB members. Horbert Warnke emphasized the importance of the labor union elections for the development of the BV system when, at the Mecklenburg FDGB Landesvorstand meeting on 11 and 12 February 1950, he said that they represented strong cadres of unpaid functionaries. Upon directives of the SED Politbureau Horst Sindermann demanded in March 1950 that after the elections the BV system be strengthened particularly in private enterprises.
7. It can be expected that, for cover reasons, the BV system is to be developed with some degree of secrecy while, on the other hand, the accepted cadre regulations will be complied with in that only politically reliable persons will be appointed BV. Because of the general lack of SED cadres, the process of development is being subjected to considerable delay. The recent labor union elections proved the weakness of the SED among the working masses and this makes it particularly difficult to find in the SED enterprise groups a sufficient number of reliable BV who meet the cadre requirements. This, in all probability, was the cause of the limited success of the shift from the system of enterprise contracts to the system of VEB plans which began in March 1950. The BV are now charged with activating the labor force for the VEB plan, according to the statement of a representative of the Ministry of Planning at a meeting of the FDGB committee on 3 and 4 March 1950. This meeting marked the beginning of a new stage of the Soviet Zone economy in that the state, i.e. the Ministry of Planning, is now attempting to control the production process of each individual enterprise. This control was previously exercised by the BL with the VEB as the highest level while mobilization of the labor force was the responsibility of the FDGB and its nucleus, the SED enterprise group concerned. While the steering of the production process and direction of the labor force have so far been exercised by two different organizational headquarters, an attempt has now been made to form a connecting link between the two. The BV are to represent this link. The BV thus is on the one hand an agent of the state (in his capacity as organizer of the VEB plan) and, on the other hand, a representative of the SED enterprise group (as organizer of contests and similar activities). Officially, he is elected into the BGL as a "confidant" of the labor force. In this capacity he unites the objectives in the enterprise of both the state and the party and, consequently, is the actual driving force of the economic system on enterprise level just as the house informant and street informant are the driving forces among the population at their residences.

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Residential Informants.

8. From the Hausobleute who were first commissioned to distribute food ration tickets when the Soviets occupied the Eastern Zone, there developed the Hausvertrauensleute (house informants) (HV) and the Strassenvertrauensleute (street informants) (SV). From the very beginning they were under the control of the SED Wohngruppenleiter or were identical to them. By a decree of the Magistrat of East Berlin, the HV system was further developed and given a legal basis in March 1949. In other cities of the zone the HV have since also become "connecting links between the population and the administration." Organizationally, they are assigned to the Referat Ehrenamter (honorary offices section) with **the city government**, but actually are directly subordinate to the Buergermeister. At least once a month the SV are called in for **conference with** the Bezirksamt or Magistrat where they receive directives. Some of the HV also are required to attend these conferences. The SV are required to confer with the HV at least once a month and are informed by the HV concerning the attitude of the population towards administrative and political issues of timely importance. In addition, the HV are charged with registration and utilization of free or underoccupied dwelling space as well as with breaking up strongholds of profiteers. The foregoing represents only a general survey of some of the numerous missions assigned to the HV and SV.
9. In April 1949, when the first election for new HV and SV was held, the SED utilized to the fullest extent its right to nominate candidates, with the result that about 50 percent of the 25,000 HV elected in East Berlin were SED members or members of affiliated mass organizations, while 70 to 80 percent of the total SV in Eastern Germany were SED members. The outcome of that election was already affected by the close relationship between the residential block and the residential group of the SED on the one hand and between the SV and the SED residential leader on the other. The SED residential leaders used the SV and their subordinate HV to obtain information on politically unreliable tenants, and, through these informants, channeled extensive propaganda material into the apartments of those non-partisan persons who otherwise would not be affected by party propaganda. From the first the SED attempted to reach all persons not under the influence of an enterprise or organizational unit. This made it necessary that the HV and SV meet cadre requirements, a prerequisite, which heretofore had not been fulfilled inasmuch as an insufficient number of SED members had been available as HV and SV and only in the rarest instances was the population inclined to elect SED members voluntarily. Therefore it was resolved in March 1950 to hold a new election which this time was to be conducted in accordance with National Front (NF) practices. Hausgemeinschaften were established and each of these in turn was required to organize an NF Hausausschuss headed by a first chairman and a deputy. Only then was the HV elected; for this election the NF Hausausschuss usually nominated one candidate who had the confidence of the SED Kreisleitung and/or Wohngruppe. Consequently the HV was directly involved in NF propaganda and practices and became responsible for the accomplishment of NF objectives within the Hausgemeinschaft, as was indicated in part in a speech on 2 March 1950 by Buergermeister Gohr (East Berlin) in which he said that the mission of the HV is to charge the Hausgemeinschaften with being on the alert for saboteurs and agents. On 23 March 1950 Friedrich Schert extended the importance of the HV and SV when he said that they were responsible for mobilizing the population for voluntary reconstruction work on Sundays in order that the economic plan can be fulfilled before the dates previously established as goals. He advised the SED to direct close attention to the selection of candidates for the new election of the HVs and added that SED members exclusively need not be placed in nomination.
10. On 20 March 1950 the Magistrat of East Berlin, as well as the administrative bodies of other cities in the Soviet Zone of Germany, issued directives which were indicative of the importance of the HV system. According to these directives the HV and SV are assigned to the administration and personnel departments of their respective district councils (Bezirksaemter) and are subject to the latter's directives. They are assigned the following missions:

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- a. Mobilize the population along NF lines.
  - b. Announce and execute decrees of the administration and inform the population of decisive measures of the administration.
  - c. Assist in improving dwelling conditions.
  - d. Assist in the execution of social measures.
  - e. Conduct census, collection of statistics and similar tasks.
  - f. Assist in registering and allotting free or underoccupied dwelling space.
  - g. Distribute food ration tickets.
11. According to the decree of the East Berlin Magistrat, 20 to 30 households are placed in charge of one HV, while each SV will maintain contact with 10 to 15 HV. The most vital point in this decree obviously is the incorporation of the HV and SV into the NF organizations as well as into the administration and personnel departments of the district councils. They thus become influential forces of the NF in the residential areas, and simultaneously control the local organs of state machinery which in this manner penetrate down to the private apartment level. The incorporation into the administration and personnel department indicates further that the SV and HV perform personnel missions in their respective areas in that their reports of the reaction of various individuals to political measures of the administration assist in solving personnel problems as well as, when taken collectively, providing the government with an insight into public opinion. As representatives of the state they are fully authorized to enter any home.
12. Of greater importance than the mission which the HV perform for the state, is their political mission; this, however, is disguised, no official announcement on it being available. The HV is the actual driving force of the NF on the house level; he is, of course, officially subordinate to the two chairmen in the Hausausschuss, while at the same time being a member of the communal commission of the NF local, however, his position is of greater importance and affords him greater independence than those of the above mentioned chairmen, who for the most part are not SED members and are responsible only to the superior NF committee. Another fact which is usually under-emphasized in any analysis of the HV system is that the HV, in his capacity as an SED member, also receives directives from his respective SED dwelling unit and, at the same time, serves as a member of the local "Kommunalpolitische Kommission" and/or the "Abteilung fuer Staatliche Verwaltung der SED". The HV then is for the most part controlled by the SED Kreissekretariat through the SV and provides that office with much more extensive information on the attitude of the population than he submits to the administration and personnel department in the Bezirksamt.
13. The SED has thus provided itself with the means for influencing and controlling the population even down to the home level, since, in his capacity as official representative of the Bezirksamt, the HV is authorized to enter every home, a right which is not granted the respective SED residential leader. When considered in this light it becomes obvious that the informants in residential areas as well as those in enterprises represent the vanguard of the party. In these agents converge the two nets by which the SED enmeshes the population in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Each person in the Soviet Zone is under control of either one or both of the two nets, all working persons being affected in their respective enterprises as well as in their homes, while dependents and persons not active in trades as well as some of the professional people are subject to control and influence in their residential areas only. Thus it is impossible to evade this system which is particularly effective in elections or other mass actions such as the petitions against the atomic bomb and the campaign for the accomplishment of additional reconstruction plans on the local

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level. This system of informants will stand its test in the October election in which it will undoubtedly influence the election results according to the pre-arranged plans of the SED Politbureau.

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